

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ABOLITION OF SECRETARIAT GENERAL FOR COMMUNITY
AND AFRO-MALAGASY AFFAIRS: FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF
COOPERATION

REF: PARIS 13417

1. IN LINE WITH INFORMATION REPORTED REFTEL, FRENCH
GOVERNMENT INTERIM SPOKESMAN MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTER
OF INTERIOR PONIATOWSKI ANNOUNCED AFTER THE MAY 5
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT PRESIDENT
GISCARD HAD INFORMED THE COUNCIL OF HIS DECISION TO
ABOLISH THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL FOR
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WHOSE ATTRIBUTIONS WILL HENCEFORTH BE
EXERCISED BY THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION.

2. PONIATOWSKI ALSO QUOTED COOPERATION MINISTER ABELIN
AS HAVING TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD TREAT
PROBLEMS CONCERNING SUB-SAHARAN FRANCOPHONE STATES,
MAURITIUS AND MADAGASCAR. HE SAID THE MINISTRY WOULD
BE "CONSULTED" ON PROBLEMS CONCERNING NORTH AFRICAN
STATES.

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3. COMMENT: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TENDS TO CONFIRM RECENT INDICATIONS FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT SOURCES DENYING EARLIER SPECULATION THAT THE NEW MINISTRY OF COOPERATION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLETHORA OF JOINT JOINT COMMISSIONS, NOTABLY WITH THE ARAB STATES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE FRENCH COOPERATION EFFORTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION'S FUNCTIONS NOW APPEAR TO BE THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR COOPERATION DURING THE SECOND MESSMER GOVERNMENT.
IRWIN

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